

to Show Changes Made. The Applicant respectfully requests that the amendments to the abstract be entered.

5    **In the Claims:**

All amendments to the claims as described herein are provided in Appendix B1: Amended Claims and Appendix B2: Amended Claims with Markings to Show Changes Made. The Applicant respectfully requests that the amendments to the claims be entered.

10    The Examiner rejected Claims 1-2, 5, 7-10, 12, and 14-24 under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Specifically, the notations n, x, and m were not defined in the claims. The definitions of n, x, and m have been added to independent claims 1, 8, 15, 16, 17, and 21. Claim 2 has been cancelled; see the section  
15    below regarding rejections under 35 USC 102(b). The Applicant believes that independent claims 1, 8, 15, 16, 17, and 21, and further, claims 3-7, 9, 10, 12, 14, and 18-24, which depend from these claims, should now be acceptable under 35 USC 112. The Applicant thus respectfully requests that the rejections under 35 USC 112 be withdrawn.

20    **REJECTIONS UNDER 35 USC 102(B)**

**Tolane Compounds:**

25    Please note that the remarks in this section are directed toward claimed compounds with a single tolane functionality. Claims for bis-tolane compounds are addressed in a separate section, below.

1. Krause, et al.

30    The Examiner rejected Claims 1-3 and 15 under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by Krause, et al. (US 5,242,618). Krause, et al. discloses a trifluorotolane compound with an alkoxy group on the opposite ring. In Claims 1 and 15 of the present invention, the identity of

the substituent X has been amended so that it no longer recites a fluoro group. Accordingly these claims no longer recite a trifluorotolane compound as disclosed by Krause. Claim 2, which recited a trifluorotolane, has been cancelled. Thus, independent claims 1 and 15, and claim 3, which depends from claim 1, are no longer anticipated by 5 Krause, et al., and Applicant respectfully requests the rejection of these claims be withdrawn.

2. JP 10-045642

The Examiner further rejected Claims 1, 3, 4, and 15 as anticipated by JP 10-045642. JP 10-045642 discloses a pentafluorotolane with an aliphatic ring substituent similar to that recited in the present invention. Claims 1 and 15 have been amended to no longer recite such a ring substituent. Further, as noted above, these claims have been amended such that substituent X may no longer be a fluoro group, thereby prohibiting the formation of a pentafluorotolane compound. Thus, the Applicant believes that independent Claims 1 and 15 and claims 3 and 4, which depend from Claim 1, are no longer anticipated by JP 15 10-045642, and respectfully requests that the rejection of these claims be withdrawn.

*OK*

3. JP 08-209130 and JP 09-255954

The Examiner rejected Claims 1-7 and 15 as anticipated by JP 08-209130 and further, as anticipated by JP 09-255954. With regard to singular tolanes, JP 08-209130 and JP 09-255954 generally disclose tri- and pentafluorotolanes with a variety of organic substituents on the opposite ring, including the aliphatic ring substituent discussed above. JP 09-255954 further discloses a tolane compound with the aliphatic ring substituent and two fluoro groups on one ring and a trifluoromethoxy group on the opposite ring. The 25 cancellation of the X substituent as a fluoro group from claims 1 and 15 prohibits the inclusion of tri- and pentafluorotolanes in the present invention, and, further, the cancellation of the aliphatic ring substituent from claims 1 and 15 excludes the trifluoromethoxy compound disclosed JP 09-255954. Claim 2 has been cancelled. Thus, the Applicant believes that independent Claims 1 and 15 and dependent Claims 3-7 are 30 no longer anticipated by these references, and respectfully requests that the rejection of these claims be withdrawn.

*OK*

Bis-Tolane Compounds and Modified Bis-Tolane Compounds:

1. Yamada, et al.

5 The Examiner rejected Claims 8, 10-11, and 15 as anticipated by Yamada, et al. (US 5,356,558).

Claims 8, 10, and 11:

10 Yamada discloses a bis-tolane structure wherein an end ring has an alkyl group, the center ring has at least one fluoro substituent, and the opposite end ring has a nitrile substituent. The nitrile, or CN substitution of substituent X in claim 8 has been removed from the claim. Accordingly, the Applicant believes that none of the compounds recited by claim 8, or dependent claims 10 and 11, are anticipated by Yamada. The Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of Claims 8, 10, and 11  
15 be withdrawn.

Claim 15 (16):

20 Yamada apparently discloses bis-tolane compounds, whereas claim 15 of the present invention recites eutectic mixtures containing compounds with the singular tolane functionality. The Applicant believes that the rejection of Claim 15 is improper. However, it is likely that the Examiner intended to reject Claim 16, which recites eutectic mixtures with bis-tolane compounds. Thus, the Applicant will assume that Claim 16 was intended to be rejected for the purposes of this response.

25 As with Claim 8 above, the nitrile, or CN substitution of substituent X in Claim 16 has been removed from the claim. Accordingly, the Applicant believes that none of the mixtures recited by claim 16 are anticipated by Yamada. The Applicant respectfully requests that this rejection of claim 16 be withdrawn.

30 2. JP 10-045642